

been teaching at the Little Red Schoolhouse kindergarten since 1963, and has personally taught around 1,500 students in the community of Lexington, South Carolina. Maro and her husband, Hugh Rogers, a former mayor of Lexington, built the schoolhouse in their own back yard where it stands today.

Maro has taught the essentials of learning to three generations of children. Students learned their ABCs, sang songs, listened to Mrs. Rogers read stories, and took field trips throughout the midlands of South Carolina for first-hand education.

Maro Rogers, a native of Baghdad, Iraq, of Armenian heritage, stands as a shining example of how one dedicated teacher can make a dramatic impact in the lives of our children. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking Maro Rogers for her service to South Carolina's youngest students.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

REFORM HEALTH CARE

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, like the economy the war and the United States' credibility around the world, health care is another casualty of the Bush administration.

Today, nearly 44 million Americans are without health insurance. The vast majority of those people live in households where someone is working full time. The cost to cover the uninsured is about 5 months' worth of the war in Iraq. Meanwhile, Americans who have health insurance are being forced to pay more than ever before. And the administration wants to shift even more of the burden to every American under the guise of reform.

A new study by researchers at Oregon Health and Science University put it bluntly, "We spend much more than any other industrialized country in the world on a per capita basis and we get much less in return."

Health care is a crisis that demands real leadership and real solutions. So health care will remain a crisis as long as the administration remains in office. The 2nd of November cannot come soon enough for Americans without health insurance.

BE HONEST TO OUR SENIORS

(Mr. BEAUPREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, it has been 6 months since President Bush signed the historic Medicare prescription drug bill into law, and although the ink is hardly dry, there has been a steady campaign of misinformation by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

They say that these cards will not work, that they are too confusing, that they will not actually save seniors money. Mr. Speaker, the verdict is in. Medicare's new drug discount cards will save seniors money. In many instances, seniors will save hundreds, if not thousands of dollars.

For example, a senior living in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, my district, who takes three commonly prescribed drugs for seniors, Zocor, Nexium, and Fosamax, can save \$1,365 per year on their prescription drugs. I have done the math. That is money you can take to the bank, pay the rent or give to the grandkids.

The false accusations and scare tactics used by the political opponents of the prescription drug cards reminds me of something my mother used to say, "If ifs and buts were candy and nuts, we would all have a merry Christmas."

Well, Mr. Speaker, these seniors do not deserve to be lied to. They deserve the truth and they deserve a prescription drug card that will save them money.

LOAD THE WAGON

(Mr. BERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, as I listen to the retorts from the other side, I think they must have adopted that great Republican philosophy that has kind of come back here recently, "Do not worry about the mule going blind, just load the wagon." And that sure is what we are doing right now: loading the wagon for our children and grandchildren.

I hear them talking about drug cards. You just call that 800 number and see what happens. Nothing. It is just like the drug card. You get nothing. It is another way to trick people.

We are going to be asked this week to raise the debt ceiling again, by \$700 billion, and to put our children again deeper and deeper and deeper in debt. It is insane to continue to do this to the next generations. If we are doing so frazzling good, then how come we are broke? I just do not understand that.

I hear them get up here every day and talk about how good things are. It is time to do the right thing.

MEDICARE CARD PROVIDES GREAT SAVINGS

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, seniors throughout West Virginia are learning about potential savings on their prescriptions because of recent reforms to Medicare. No matter what critics may say, it is very easy to find out information about the new prescription drug card. Just ask Ann Brown, one of my constituents.

I worked with Ann. We went on line together. And she was able to see very easily what her savings would be by going onto the Medicare.gov website.

But Ann is not alone. A senior living in Charleston, West Virginia in a 25304 zip code who takes Fosamax for osteoporosis, Zocor for cholesterol, and Nexium for acid reflux can save \$170 a month by using a Medicare-endorsed card, which is a savings of over \$2,000 a year. That is a real savings.

Why are they saving? Because the competition and buying power of over 40 million seniors across the country is driving down the cost of prescriptions.

Beginning on June 1, seniors will begin to realize these significant savings, and through the Medicare-endorsed prescription drug card, they will see that this benefit is significant, meaningful and hits the bottom line.

WE NEED A POLICY CHANGE

(Mr. HINCHEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, when the national Republican Party took us to war in Iraq, the average price of gasoline across the country was \$1.40 cents a gallon, and we were told that the cost of the war in Iraq would be negligible because it would be paid for by the oil in Iraq.

Now, 14 months later, the price of gasoline in America is more than \$2 a gallon and the war in Iraq is costing us \$200 billion. The Republican energy plan is to increase our dependence on foreign oil. Their plan for Iraq is more of the same.

With, now, almost 800 American servicemen and -women dead, 4,000 injured, it is quite obvious we need a different policy and a different leadership. It is time for a change.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG CARD A BENEFIT

(Mr. BROWN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. On May 3, 2004, constituents of the First Congressional District of South Carolina began signing up for their new Medicare discount card. The enrollment fee for the discount card will range from zero to \$30 per eligible person.

The discount card will save the seniors and disabled Medicare beneficiaries of my district between 10 and 25 percent off the retail price of most drugs. In addition to the discounts, seniors whose income is below \$12,569 for individuals and \$16,862 for married couples may qualify for an additional \$600 credit to cover the full cost of their prescription.

Military retirees can now enroll in Medicare Part B without a late enrollment penalty through December 31, 2004.